THE INTIMIDATING AIR, TYPICAL OF DRAGONS, THAT WAS EMITTED BY THE 3 PEOPLE BEFORE HIM, TOOK AWAY LECTIVAL'S BREATH.
ALLOW ME TO INTRO-DUCE THEM.
白の皇国物語
第七回
原作：白沢戌亥
漫画：不二まーゆ
THE BLUE DRAGON DUCHESS, MARIA VIVI VON LEVIA-THAN
THE RED DRAGON DUKE, FREDRICK BARG SVAROG
THE BLACK DRAGON DUCHESS, ANASTASHA VON NIDHOGG
SO THE ISSUE TODAY IS RESOLVING THE 3 DRAGON DUKES DECLARING THEIR INDEPENDENCE...

WH-
TRUE.
CARL,
I'VE FULFILLED MY PROMISE NOW.

WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME, AND WE'VE ALREADY COMPRO-MISED WITH YOU.
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE ANY COMPLAINTS.
CARL,

YOU CAN DEAL WITH THE REST.
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THE DUTIES OF THE FOUR DRAGON CLANS?!
Y-YOU... WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
HOLD IT!

WE DON'T PLAN ON SERVING THAT CROWN PRINCE.
WE PLAN TO PROTECT IT WITH OUR OWN ARMIES.
OUR DUTY IS TO PROTECT THE KINGDOM, WE REMEMBER THAT, BUT
HOW LONG DO YOU INTEND TO KEEP THIS UP, YOU BLOCK-HEADS?!
WHY YOU, AFTER COMING THIS FA-

I SAID TO KNOCK IT OFF.
WHAT WAS THAT?

OR ARE YOU SO OLD THAT YOUR HEARING HAS GONE BAD?

HUUUUH?!

THE KING'S SWORD?!

THE POWER OF THE KING'S SWORD MANIFESTS ITSELF TO PROTECT THE COUNTRY,
EVEN YOU SHOULD UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF IT GRANTING ME THIS POWER.
THE KING'S SWORD HAS DECIDED THAT HE'S NECESSARY FOR THE KINGDOM...
I SUPPOSE IT CAN'T BE HELPED
IF THAT'S THE CASE, I'LL AT LEAST HEAR YOU OUT.
.....

IS THERE A WAY OF KEEPING THE BATTLES TO A MINIMUM, AND REDUCING THE ALLIED FORCES' MORALE SO THEY CHOOSE TO RETREAT?
A TOTAL WAR BETWEEN THE ALLIED FORCES AND THE KINGDOM IS SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO AVOID.
WHILE I HAD TO SAY IT TO KEEP THE 3 OF YOU FROM LEAVING, I'D LIKE TO APOLOGIZE FOR MY EARLIER WORDS.
THE DISCUSSION WITH THE FOUR DRAGON DUKES CONCERNED THE ELIMINATION OF THE ALLIED FORCES THAT OCCUPY MIRA PLAINS.
IF WE MOBILIZE THE REGULAR ARMY,
PLEASE REMEMBER, THE CAPITAL IS CURRENTLY BEING HELD HOSTAGE.
SOUNDS LIKE A PAIN, CAN'T WE JUST MOBILIZE THE REGULAR ARMY AND CHASE THEM OUT?
THE CAPITAL WILL FALL!

AS THE KINGDOM'S REPRESENTATIVE, IF THE CROWN PRINCE PROVOKES THEM, IT'LL AUTOMATICALLY TURN INTO A TOTAL WAR!
IS IT TOO HARD TO UNDERSTAND, BOY?
REALLY... EVEN HIS HIGHNESS, ONLY RECENTLY INSTATED AS CROWN PRINCE, UNDERSTANDS THIS.
WH- YOU OLD HAG!
BOY, WHAT DID YOU JUST CALL THIS
YOUNG LADY?
PFF "YOUNG LADY"?! DON'T YOU MEAN OLD HAG?
ARE THEY ALWAYS LIKE THIS?
YOUR HIGH- NESS, MAY I?
HMM? GO AHEAD.
LET'S SEE...
MARIA, CAN YOU PULL ANY STRINGS WITH THEIR POLITICIANS?

HUH?
YOUR HIGH-NESS,
MARIA...
WE JUST NEED SOMETHING DECISIVE TO FORCE THEIR RETREAT.
WHITE DRAGON DUKE,
MAN, WOMAN, ALLIED FORCES, THEY'RE ALL THE SAME... I'LL BE CONTACTING SOME PEOPLE I KNOW.
PEOPLE ARE AT THEIR MOST VULNERABLE WHEN THEY FEEL THEIR DESIRES ARE ABOUT TO BE FULFILLED,

AH, THERE WAS THAT METHOD!
THE MIRA PLAINS ARE THE ROYAL FAMILY'S LAND, NO? AND THE NOBLES' ARMY ISN'T THE REGULAR ARMY.
IN THAT CASE,
HEY, TASHA, WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT?
SIMPLE-TON
HAHA, I LIKE VICIOUS MEN TOO.
IT ISN'T TOO VICIOUS, IS IT?
WHAT ARE THE MIRA PLAINS?
THE ROYAL FAMILY'S LAN- I GET IT NOW!
3: NOBLES HAVE THE RIGHT TO PROTECT THEIR LANDS.
YEAH.
2: THE NOBLES' ARMY ISN'T LEGALLY REGARDED AS A REGULAR ARMY.
RIGHT.
1: THE REGULAR ARMY CAN'T BE USED
WHERE'D YOU GET THAT?
YEAH.

LECTIVAL'S PLAN INVOLVED USING THE NOBLES' ARMY STATIONED AT THE MIRA PLAINS THAT BELONG TO THE ROYAL FAMILY TO DEMAND THAT THE ALLIED FORCES WITHDRAW, UNDER THE PRETENSE OF MAINTAINING ORDER.
TASHA, ARE THERE ANY LEGAL ISSUES?
... NO.
HEY, WHAT'S THIS NOBLE ARMY HERE?
WE ARE THE FOUR DRAGON DUKES ARMY.
ISN'T THAT OBVIOUS?
THE OTHER ORIGINAL NOBLES ARE ALREADY AT THE MIRA PLAINS.

NOW WE JUST NEED TO DEAL WITH PARLIAMENT AND THE ARMY.
FREDRICK, CAN YOU DO IT?
YEAH, LEAVE IT TO ME!
I'M

COUNTING ON YOU ALL.

I'VE NEVER HEARD OF A CROWN PRINCE BEING ABLE TO USE THE KING'S SWORD RIGHT AFTER BEING INVESTED...
HIS EYES... SILVER...
YEAH.
THE KING'S SWORD.
FRED-RICK...
レクティフ
LECTIVAL...
AN INTERESTING GUY HAS APPEARED.
おもしろいヤツが来た
WE'RE RISING EARLY TOMORROW, GET MOVING, SHORTY!
I'VE NEVER SEEN DRAGON EYES OF THAT COLOR.

PLEASE...
VILIA.
VILIA, OVER HERE.
PROTECT MERIELA...
IF ONLY...
自分が
I WAS STRONGER BACK THEN...
I'M SORRY... MADAM...

ゴトッ
MMH...

HUH?!
ビクッ
MMMH...
WHY ARE LILICIA
ムニャ
ムニャ
AND MERIELA HERE?
メリエラさんがなんに?
CALM DOWN... LAST NIGHT I WAS
ALONE WHEN I WENT TO BED...
SO WHEN I HEARD THEIR VOICES IT WASN'T A DREAM?
リエラさんたちの声がなかったのか!?
LECT...
MASTER LECTIVAL...

MY SECOND LIFE IS OVER...
YOUR HIGHNESS,
PLEASE WAK-
.....
I-IT'S A MISUNDER-STANDING!
HOLD IT, YOU SCUMBAG!

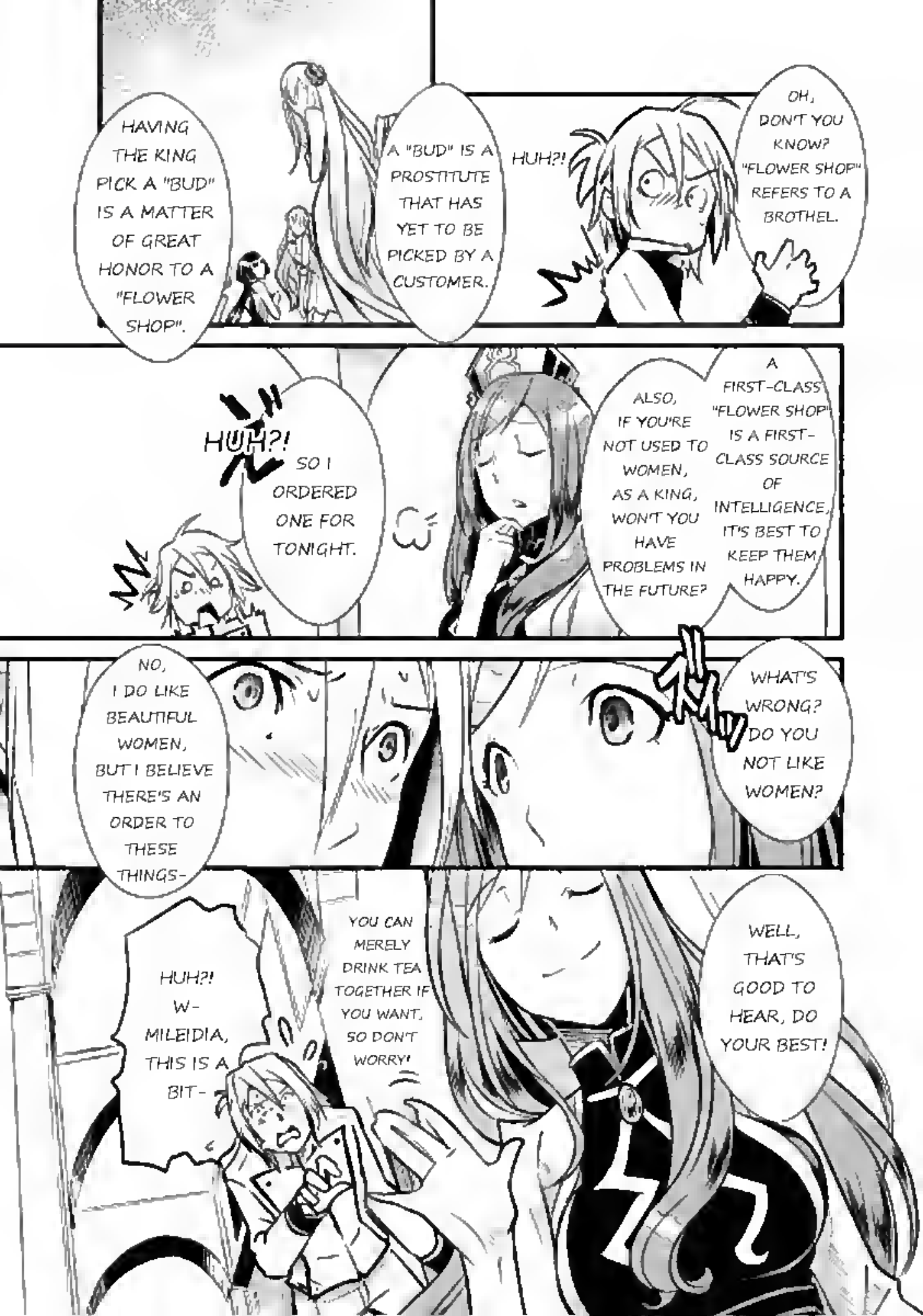
I REALLY HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING BAD.
UH, WHAT IS THAT?
A TREASURED SWORD PASSED DOWN IN MY FAMILY, THE "CAVE DRAGON CUTTER".
TRY IT OUT FOR YOURSELF.

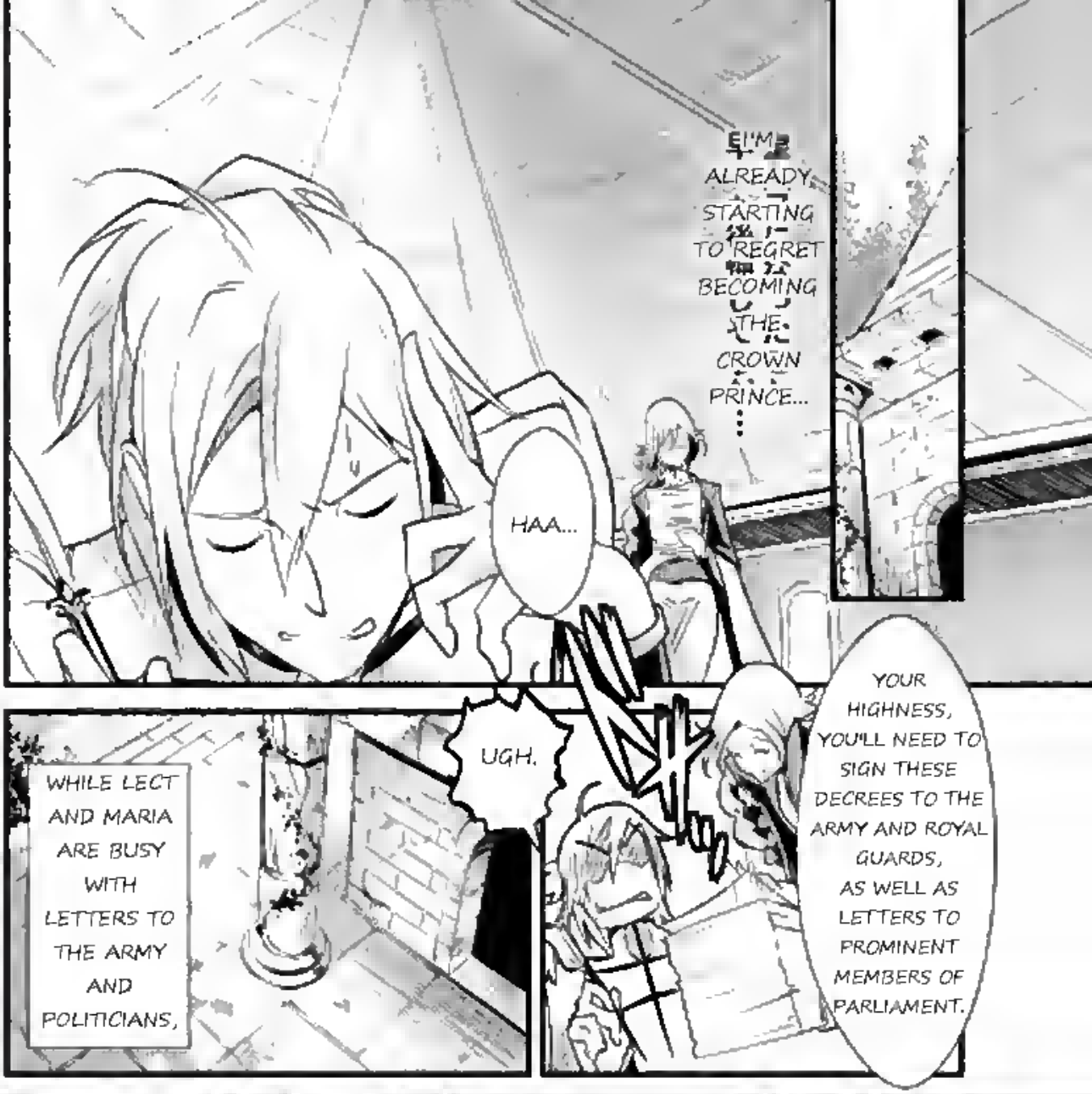
YOU'LL PAY IN BLOOD
EEEK!
I'LL HAVE TO DECLINE!
FOR DEFIL-ING THE PRIN-CESS!

LECT, HOW DID THAT HAPPEN?
YES...
YOUR HIGHNESS, CAN YOU OPEN YOUR MOUTH?
I'M FINE...

WHY DID IT COME TO THIS...
.....
THANKS FOR THE MEAL.
OH, LECTIVAL, ARE YOU DONE EATING BREAKFAST?
MILEIDIA, PLEASE DON'T BRING THAT UP...
THERE ARE RUMORS GOING AROUND ABOUT YOU AND A JEALOUS MAID.
YOU'RE QUITE ENERGETIC TO BE RUNNING AROUND WITH A WOMAN IN THE MORNING.

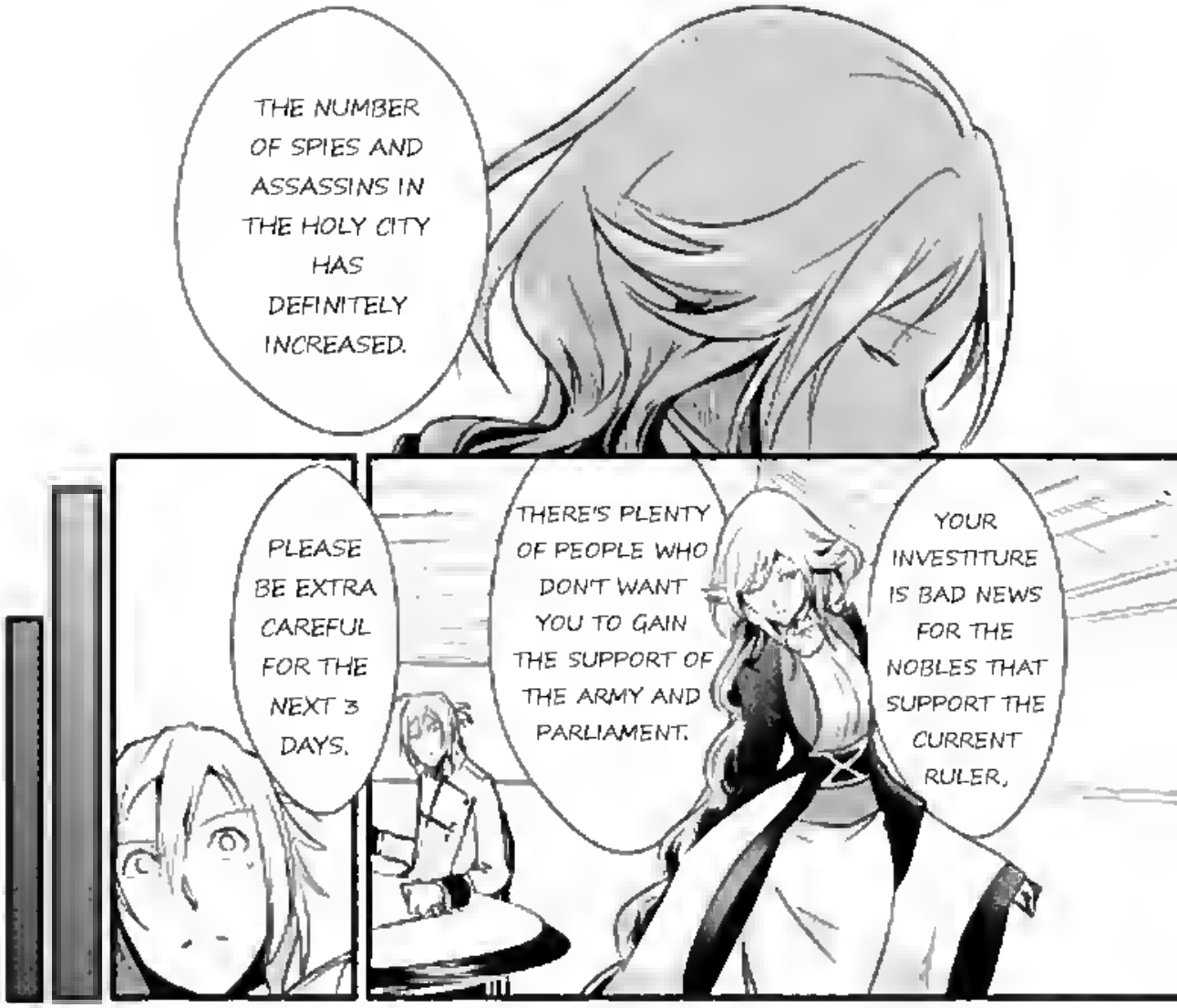
LAST NIGHT, LILICIA AND MERIELA RAN INTO YOUR ROOM.
I ASKED LILICIA EARLIER, IT SEEMS YOU WERE SLEEPING,
SO, HOW WAS LAST NIGHT?
W-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
MASTER LECTIVAL...
LECT...
SO THEY WATCHED EACH OTHER ALL NIGHT, BUT THAT'S ALL SHE REMEMBERS.
AND SO, THEY BOTH FELL ASLEEP...
NOTHING HAPPENED, REALLY.
IT'S UNFORTUNATE THAT THEY HEARD OUR TALKS ABOUT ORDERING A "BUD" FROM THE "FLOWER SHOP".
THEY MADE A FUSS ABOUT HOW YOU HAVE THEM AND THERE'S NO NEED FOR A "BUD"
"FLOWER SHOP"? "BUD"?


HAVING THE KING PICK A "BUD" IS A MATTER OF GREAT HONOR TO A "FLOWER SHOP".
A "BUD" IS A PROSTITUTE THAT HAS YET TO BE PICKED BY A CUSTOMER.
HUH?!
OH, DON'T YOU KNOW? "FLOWER SHOP" REFERS TO A BROTHEL.
HUH?!
SO I ORDERED ONE FOR TONIGHT.
ALSO, IF YOU'RE NOT USED TO WOMEN, AS A KING, WON'T YOU HAVE PROBLEMS IN THE FUTURE?
A FIRST-CLASS "FLOWER SHOP" IS A FIRST-CLASS SOURCE OF INTELLIGENCE, IT'S BEST TO KEEP THEM HAPPY.
NO, I DO LIKE BEAUTIFUL WOMEN, BUT I BELIEVE THERE'S AN ORDER TO THESE THINGS-
WHAT'S WRONG? DO YOU NOT LIKE WOMEN?
HUH?! W- MILEIDIA, THIS IS A BIT-
YOU CAN MERELY DRINK TEA TOGETHER IF YOU WANT, SO DON'T WORRY!
WELL, THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR, DO YOUR BEST!


I'M ALREADY STARTING TO REGRET BECOMING THE CROWN PRINCE...
HAA...
YOUR HIGHNESS, YOU'LL NEED TO SIGN THESE DECREES TO THE ARMY AND ROYAL GUARDS, AS WELL AS LETTERS TO PROMINENT MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.
UGH.
WHILE LECT AND MARIA ARE BUSY WITH LETTERS TO THE ARMY AND POLITICIANS,

CARL HAD LEFT THE HOLY CITY TO INFORM VARIOUS PEOPLE OF THE INVESTITURE OF THE CROWN PRINCE AND PASS ON ORDERS TO THE MILITARY.

WHILE FREDRICK AND ANASTASHA WENT AROUND TO ASSEMBLE THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.
MARIA,
CAN'T WE JUST HIRE AN AMANUENSIS FOR THIS EXCESSIVELY COMPLICATED SIGNA-
NO.
THE PLAN TO TAKE BACK THE CAPITAL IS SET TO BEGIN IN 3 DAYS WHEN THE OTHER DRAGON DUKES RETURN.
IMMEDIATELY REJECTED
PEOPLE WILL BE HAPPIER TO RECEIVE A LETTER THAT HAS YOUR OWN HANDWRITING IN IT.
THERE'S STILL MORE LEFT
YOUR HIGHNESS.


THE NUMBER OF SPIES AND ASSASSINS IN THE HOLY CITY HAS DEFINITELY INCREASED.
PLEASE BE EXTRA CAREFUL FOR THE NEXT 3 DAYS.
THERE'S PLENTY OF PEOPLE WHO DON'T WANT YOU TO GAIN THE SUPPORT OF THE ARMY AND PARLIAMENT.
YOUR INVESTITURE IS BAD NEWS FOR THE NOBLES THAT SUPPORT THE CURRENT RULER.

THAT WAS CLOSE... I NEARLY FELL ASLEEP IN THE BATH...
I'VE HEARD THAT ONCE YOU'RE USED TO THE KING'S SWORD, YOU'LL NEVER FEEL TIRED...

THE PRESENCE BEHIND THE DOOR; AND THAT MANNER OF KNOCKING... THEY DON'T MATCH THE PEOPLE I KNOW.
コンコン
WHO COULD IT BE THIS LATE?
IT CAN'T BE... BUT STILL, IF IT IS...
YES...
AH...
RIGHT.
HER GRACE, THE ARCHBISHOP, SENT ME HERE TO BE YOUR PARTNER FOR THE NIGHT.

MY NAME IS ARIA.
YOUR HIGHNESS, DID YOU JUST FINISH BATHING?